

David G. and Margaret Stewart House  
209 Coleridge Avenue  
Llyswen Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5881

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DAVID G. AND MARGARET STEWART HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5881

Location: 209 Coleridge Ave.

Date of Erection: 1904-05

Description: The character of the architectural detail on this house is classical, but its application is relaxed and creatively adaptive. Despite first impressions and the classical overtones, the street facade of the two-and-a-half-story, hipped-roof residence is not symmetrically arranged. Fenestration on all levels is neatly balanced, the front-facing wall dormer in the attic story is perfectly centered but, like the typologically related houses at 304 Coleridge Ave. and 300 Logan Blvd., the entry is a bit off center. In this case, the front door is about 6 inches to the right of the central axis, which makes more enigmatic the fact that the space between the porch columns is shortened by at least a foot on the left side of the porch. The porch itself is the house's best feature. Its hipped roof flares to a dramatic overhang accented by blunt modillions, much like oversized dentils, that visually measure off the width of the house. Tall, round, tapered columns rise to winglike elements that convert square openings into curved-edge ones. The wood porch rail could hardly be simpler, but the sunburst motif in the center of each rail repeats the pattern in the dormer windows. The dormer gable is shingled, with a small projecting section at the peak decorated with small curved brackets. There are cornice returns at the gable ends, over a wide, plain frieze that wraps around the house in smooth contrast to the house's narrow bevel siding. In the shadow of the porch, the narrow front door has a large rectangular light and is flanked by sidelights. There is a one-story, three-sided bay to the right of the entry. The wood stairway on the south side of the house leads to the duplex's upstairs entry, beneath another gabled dormer.

History: David G. Stewart, a foreman for the U.S. Postal Service, moved into this house with his wife, Margaret, one year after he purchased the vacant lot from the Altoona Suburban Home Company for \$350 in March 1905. David died in 1913, but Margaret kept this house until 1923, when she and her children sold it to Altoona High School teacher Clarence Earle Hedden for \$7,100. William and Annie Earnest bought it from the Heddens three years later. Both of them died in 1950. Rae and Simon Goldberg, proprietors of Simms Jewelers, acquired it from their estate in 1951 for \$8,500, and within the year sold it to Charles R. and Ruth Warner. It was under their ownership that the house was converted into a duplex. In 1984 Ruth Warner conveyed the property to her son, Charles, in consideration of a life estate in half of the duplex.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 154/346, 286/450, 306/6, 344/305, 638/78, 638/75, 645/470, 1100/873.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.